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# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

GONORRHOEA IN WOMEN.—In a paper on this subject in the *Medical Record*, Maude Glasgow, M.D., points out some of the various manifestations of gonorrhœa in women and appropriate methods of treatment. It leads too often to serious operations on the organs of reproduction, leaving the woman sterile and compelling her to become unsexed not for her own shortcomings but for those of others. Many times this dread disease entails invalidism for life.

If women voluntarily exposed themselves to disease which would result in sapping the husband's vitality, energy and strength, making him a dependent invalid, or subjecting him to the shock of a surgical operation with consequent mutilation, or in some cases even death itself, would men be willing to continue so to suffer and would they invoke the aid of the medical secret to protect women in the exercise of this so-called freedom which cost their partners such a heavy price? Would men be so governed if their own lives were played with?

In Hamburg, no matter to what social class a man belongs; if he is accused of infecting a woman with venereal disease, he is obliged to undergo official examination and if diseased to receive appropriate treatment, either in a hospital or elsewhere. The treatment of any kind of communicable disease should be regarded as a sanitary question and dealt with accordingly.

PROSTITUTION.—Dr. Prince A. Morrow in an article in the *Maryland Medical Journal* says: There has been a marked change in public sentiment in relation to the toleration of public houses of prostitution. Many are asking whether the evil is such a necessity as has been pretended. With the sweeping away of the physiological fallacy of the sexual necessity for men it follows that what is not a necessity for the individual is not a necessity for society and that the state cannot be justified in tolerating public provision for satisfying the so-called sexual need of men. Twenty-five thousand dollars a year for three years has been pledged to the American Federation for Sex Hygiene for the furtherance of its work.

ABORTING A FELON.—*The American Journal of Surgery* suggests that a felon may be frequently aborted by covering the end of the

finger with cotton saturated in alcohol and protecting it from air by a rubber finger cot.

**THE VACUUM BOTTLE IN INFANT FEEDING.**—Dr. H. H. Killinger and Dr. F. O. Touney describe in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* the use of the vacuum bottle in keeping an infant's food warm over several feeding periods. The milk was heated to a temperature of 150° Fahrenheit transferred to vacuum bottles, which had been previously warmed. The bottles were kept at room temperature and opened at intervals for temperature readings and bacterial tests. It was found that this method of treatment was quite as efficient from the standpoint of elimination of bacteria as the best pasteurizing processes now in use. The temperature of the milk remained germicidal for from six to ten hours, depending on the temperature of the place in which the bottle has stood. After that time and as the temperature fell below 115° F. the bacteria began to multiply rapidly and soon reached enormous numbers.

It is thus evident that it is not safe to heat the milk to the proper temperature for feeding the child and keep it in the bottle at that temperature for any length of time.

At feeding time remove the cork and test the milk with a thermometer. If it registers above 115° fill the nursing bottle and allow it to cool to the proper degree of warmth. Should it be below 115° F. throw it away as unfit for use, as bacteria will have multiplied in it. If the bottle is placed in a warm place after being filled with milk at 150° F. it will retain the proper heat for about ten hours. Milk heated to only 100° F. becomes dangerous in two hours.

**RED CROSS PRIZES.**—The first prize for the best invention for lessening suffering of the sick and wounded soldiers, awarded from the fund established by the Empress of Russia, was given by the International Red Cross Conference at Washington to Dr. Louis Lesage of the Necker Hospital, Paris, for a portable X-ray laboratory automobile for carrying the wounded from battle fields. The prize amounts to \$3000.00. Two second prizes of \$1500.00 each were awarded to Major Rigenbach, of Switzerland, for a wheeled and folding stretcher and to Dr. G. Steindorf, of Germany, for a bicycle stretcher. Third prizes of \$500.00 each went to Capt. Henry L. Brown, U. S. A.; Major Halloran, U. S. A., and several others.

**BETTER FOOD FOR NURSES.**—At the sixth annual meeting of the Canadian Hospital Association, held in Toronto and reported in the *Medical Record*, Amy Armom, of New York, contributed a paper on hospital housekeeping in which she demonstrated the necessity for

expert dietitians and for training nurses to be expert dietitians. She urged strongly the need for more and better food for nurses, the universally poor food served to nurses being in her opinion, one of the reasons for the decreasing number of pupils available.

This is one of the most glaring deficiencies in hospital management. Nurses cannot give good service unless they are properly nourished and if sufficient and appetizing food is not furnished them their work must suffer proportionately. It is poor policy to make well people sick who are trying to get sick people well.

Dr. Hurd, president of the American Hospital Association, stated that in his opinion the standard of nurses is lowering. The better class of girls will not train because the strain is too great. Unless the hours on duty are shortened and better food is served the standard will continue to lower. At present, said Dr. Hurd, many of the nurses who graduated from hospitals are no higher in standard than those who receive their diplomas from a school of correspondence that has a course of only a few weeks.

**INDUCTION OF LABOR AT TERM.**—At a meeting of the Medical Society of the state of New York, Dr. George W. Kosmak presented a paper on this subject. He said that the normal term of gestation, 280 days, had many exceptions; it has been estimated that 15 per cent. of all gestations were protracted. One had to be governed by the relative size of the child and the pelvis in determining the advisability of inducing labor. The growth of the fetus during the latter months is very rapid, so rapid that a child weighing 7 pounds at term would weigh 14 pounds if the birth were deferred another month. The bones also become harder, pointing to a longer labor and possible mutilation. The rational course was to induce labor within four or five days of term.

**DISINFECTING BOOKS.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* says in an editorial that the public school and the public library have brought with them the public book, an acknowledged carrier of contagion and disseminator of disease. Books are known to have infected people with septicemia and tuberculosis as letters have carried scarlet fever and small-pox. An extensive enquiry reports that only nine states and twenty-five cities—those which burn and those which use steam, which likewise destroys,—are taking proper precautions in regard to the danger of infection from scarlet fever, diphtheria, small-pox and occasionally measles. As a result of experiments Dr. L. B. Nice recommends the use of moist, hot air at 80° C. and 30 or 40 per cent. humidity for thirty-two hours. This is alleged to destroy all non-sporeing bacteria in closed books, even tubercle bacilli in thick layers, without injuring the most delicate bindings.